

MACDONALD-LAURIER INSTITUTE

Canadian Ideas In Action



True North in
Canadian public policy



What We Do

At MLI, we believe ideas matter. The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is the only non-partisan, independent public policy think tank in Ottawa focusing on the full range of issues that fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Our goal is to be an indispensable source of reasoned and timely thought leadership for policy makers, opinion leaders, the media and the public, and thereby to contribute to making Canada the best governed country in the world.

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LETTER FROM THE Chair and Managing Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Seven years after its launch, the Macdonald-Laurier Institute is giving every sign of having established itself as a new but indispensable national institution.

When we started the Institute our ambition was to create a “full service” think tank that could and would influence the national conversation on every policy area under the authority of the federal government. We think we are increasingly meeting that stringent test.

In the early days we focused more on domestic policy, and particularly Indigenous affairs, the economy and health care. But after our initial successes in those fields in 2016 we found the wherewithal to expand our reach to vital and hitherto neglected areas such as the justice system, intellectual property, foreign affairs, national defence and national security.

The result has been to raise MLI’s profile even further and to burnish our reputation as the rising star of the Canadian think tank world.

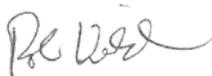
The facts are eloquent. Our presence in social media, our web traffic, our earned media, the scale of our publishing programme – by these and many other measures MLI continues to make waves far greater than our budget and years of existence might lead one to expect.

That impact has allowed us to continue to grow in the ways that matter. Many of the most talented policy thinkers in the country have increasingly sought out the MLI platform for their ideas because of our effectiveness in getting those ideas noticed. Funders have been drawn to the Institute for the same reason, allowing us to undertake important initiatives such as the Munk Senior Fellows programme.

Both of us wish to express our recognition and gratitude to the many people who have made the MLI story – laid out here in some detail – such a success. In particular we wish to mention the board of directors, the advisory council, the research advisory board, our authors, fellows and other collaborators, our financial supporters, those who attended our events and, crucially, the staff who have given so unstintingly of their time, energy and intelligence.

2016 was a great year for MLI. We remain persuaded, however, that the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,



Rob Wildeboer
CHAIR



Brian Lee Crowley
MANAGING DIRECTOR

2016 MLI ANNUAL REPORT

Canadian Thought Leadership In Action

The Macdonald-Laurier Institute burst onto the Canadian think tank scene in 2010, full of new ideas and challenging the established order. As brash and innovative as ever, in 2016, for the second year in a row, MLI was named the top think tank in Ottawa and one of the top five in Canada in the most respected international rankings. We have left many larger, older institutions behind in our quest to become the indispensable source of thought leadership on federal public policy in Canada. As MLI continues its rapid growth in size and influence, the details of which will follow in this report, we intend to retain our entrepreneurial spirit. And we will always keep one question at the forefront of our minds and our efforts: “what is best for Canada”?

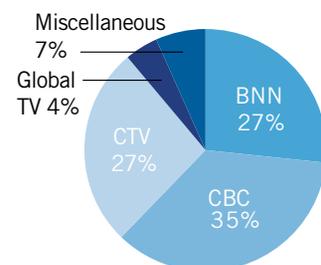
“The Macdonald-Laurier Institute’s foreign policy centre has become an important resource and leader in examining and developing Canadian foreign policy in a rapidly evolving and increasingly uncertain world.”

The Hon. Bob Rae
FORMER ONTARIO PREMIER AND FORMER INTERIM FEDERAL LIBERAL LEADER

Connecting With Canadians

The year 2016 was the most productive by far for the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. Pound for pound we are having an outsized impact on the Canadian policy debate. We more than doubled our “earned media” mentions from 2015, with particular success in TV interviews on major networks such as CBC and CTV, and op-eds placed in major print and online news sources such as the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, Sun and Postmedia papers, Huffington Post, and iPolitics.

TV – APPEARANCES BY OUTLET



While media coverage remains vital to what we do, MLI has made it a priority to increasingly deliver our own message our way, with engaging content on our website in the form of video, daily blogs and online *Inside Policy* articles, and a growing web and social media presence. In 2016 our Twitter following increased by nearly 40 percent and our web users increased by more than 20 percent. And we produced more hard hitting policy work than ever before, with more than 50 publications including research reports, commentary papers, Q & As and print issues of *Inside Policy* magazine.

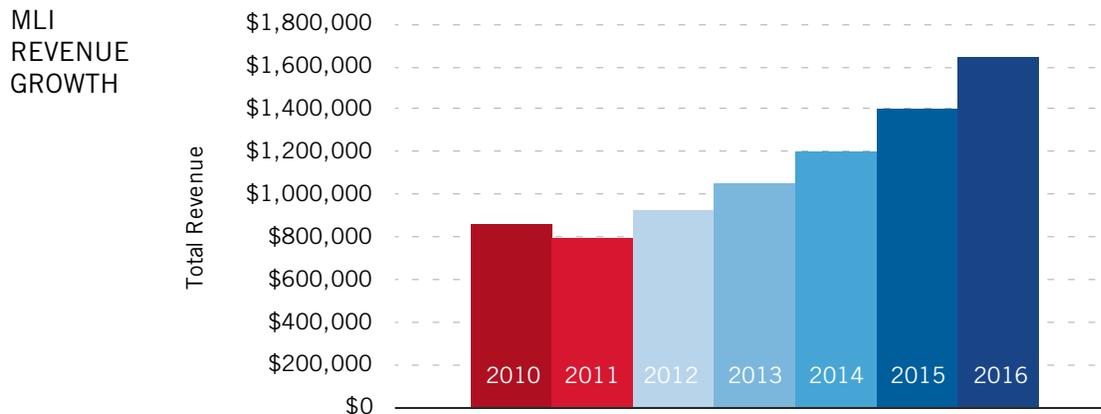
The Macdonald-Laurier Institute is shaking up the public policy debate in Canada!

MLI has earned its reputation for producing thought leadership that people notice. Here's what we did in 2016:

				
39.8% GROWTH	144 OP-EDS	2,294 HITS	98,392 USERS	50 PUBLICATIONS
in the number of MLI's Twitter followers @MLInstitute	placed in influential publications such as    	in earned media, such as newspapers, radio and TV	to the MLI website macdonaldlaurier.ca	top-quality • reports • • commentaries • • magazines •

Watch Us Grow

MLI's growing reputation has earned us the trust of our generous existing donors and attracted new supporters as well. Our value proposition is clear. We are having an outsized impact on the policy debate in Canada, and by supporting MLI you are making a real contribution to making a great country even better.



Breaking New Ground

While MLI has always taken great pride in being a full-service federal policy think tank, 2016 saw us take a significant step forward in major new policy areas. While our track record on Indigenous issues, health care, internal trade and fiscal policy is well established, in 2016 we increasingly became the go-to source for informed commentary on innovation and intellectual property, criminal justice, and global affairs. The launch of our Munk Senior Fellows program, which started with 11 fellows in 2016, brought even more of the country's top experts into MLI's orbit, and dramatically increased our media presence and impact. Our "From a Mandate for Change to a Plan to Govern" series of papers showed how nimble MLI can be in reacting to a fast-changing policy environment to have maximum impact.

“

The Macdonald-Laurier Institute's latest foreign policy initiative is a ground-breaking, refreshing and novel contribution towards defining Canadian leadership in a rapidly changing world.

Alongside the Institute's important work on a range of national issues, MLI should be listened to as a resource that promises to shake things up.”

The Hon. John Baird, P.C.
FORMER CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

MLI's Impact

Documenting our influence is crucial to measuring our success. We pride ourselves on our ability to ensure our ideas are being heard by the nation's politicians, policy-makers, opinion leaders and media. In 2016 MLI's work on policy issues was being noticed, and influenced action in many areas. Here are a few telling examples:

Justice and the Courts

We published five major papers on criminal justice issues in 2016, and made an unprecedented impact on justice issues:

- "Dissent from Within at the Supreme Court of Canada: 2015 Year in Review," by Benjamin Perrin, Jan. 15, 2016
- "Canada's Justice Deficit: The case for a justice system report card," by Benjamin Perrin, Richard Audas and Sarah Peloquin Ladany, May 5, 2016
- Report Card on the Criminal Justice System: Evaluating Canada's justice deficit," by Benjamin Perrin and Richard Audas, Sept. 21, 2016
- "Justice On Trial: Inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in the Canadian criminal justice system," by Scott Newark, Sept. 27, 2016
- "The Supreme Court v. Parliament: Supreme Court of Canada 2016 year in review," by Benjamin Perrin, Dec. 8, 2016

In September 2016 Benjamin Perrin and Richard Audas published MLI's first Report Card on the Criminal Justice System, which provided a detailed assessment of what they saw as a "justice deficit" in each province and territory, across multiple metrics. The report found that with few exceptions the Canadian justice system is slow, inefficient, and costly. The Justice Report Card was possibly the most successful project launched by MLI in recent years, drawing significant attention from the media as well as responses from policy makers.

In response to the MLI report the Manitoba government promptly promised a review of its justice system, and Alberta Justice Minister Kathleen Ganley acknowledged the need for significant reform to her province's justice system. The government of Prince Edward Island, ranked first in the report card, issued a press release discussing its ranking. The Mayor of Iqaluit said the report rang true with her experiences with victim support in Nunavut, while many territorial officials responded to their jurisdictions' poor rankings. The report also generated a reaction from Newfoundland Justice Minister Andrew Parsons, who proposed to convene representatives of the various branches of the province's legal system to discuss reforms. And Ontario announced it will introduce new policies to reduce the number of charges stayed or withdrawn, a major weakness for the province highlighted in MLI's report and supported by an editorial in the *Globe and Mail*.

Finally, Scott Newark's companion report on the inefficiencies of the justice system at the national level was reviewed by the Canadian Association of Police Governance (Police Boards) which sent it to all of their members, meaning every police board and police chief in Canada received a copy along with the association's endorsement. Newark has closely advised the Senate committee headed by Senator Runciman examining inefficiency in the justice system. Both Audas and Newark have testified before the committee.

As well, Perrin has been invited to present his MLI research at Osgoode Hall law school, at the annual conference of the Ontario Bar Association, and to the Justices of the BC Supreme Court.



Causing a Stir on Twitter



Aboriginal Affairs

Since the launch of its signature Aboriginal Canada and the Natural Resource Economy project in 2013, MLI has established itself as the leading authority on Indigenous issues and in 2016 we continued the

tradition by publishing four major papers, in addition to a number of shorter commentary papers, Straight Talk interviews, *Inside Policy articles*, op-eds and videos:

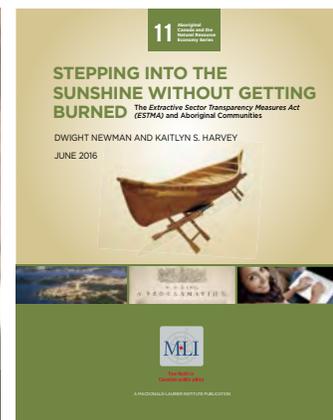
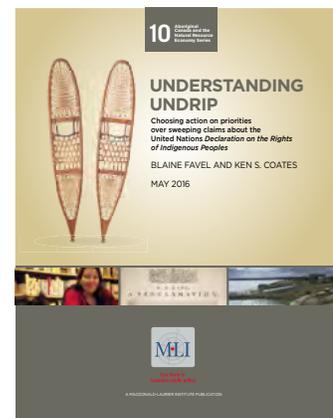
- “Understanding FPIC: From assertion and assumption on ‘free, prior and informed consent’ to a new model for Indigenous engagement on resource development,” by Ken Coates and Blaine Favel, April 28, 2016
- “Understanding UNDRIP: Choosing action on priorities over sweeping claims about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,” by Ken Coates and Blaine Favel, May 19, 2016
- “Stepping Into The Sunshine Without Getting Burned: The Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act (ESTMA) and Aboriginal Communities,” by Dwight Newman and Kaitlyn S. Harvey, June 2, 2016
- “Learning to Listen: Snapshots of Aboriginal Participation in Environmental Assessment,” by Bram Noble, July 5, 2016

MLI has had an impressive and clear impact on policymaking in this field in the past year. For example, in the spring of 2016, just when the government revealed its plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), MLI released two papers contending that full implementation of UNDRIP was not manageable because of the complexity of Canadian laws and policies. The reports, co-authored by Ken Coates and Plains Cree leader Blaine Favel, instead called for the government to take a made-in-Canada approach in collaboration with Aboriginal leaders. A few months later, Canada’s Justice Minister adopted a view very similar to MLI’s. This change of heart did not go unnoticed; the *National Post’s* John Ivison made the explicit connection between the evolution in the government’s thinking and MLI’s work in his column, saying the Justice Minister “has done the right thing.” A few days later *Post* columnist Kelly McParland cited Coates’ work on the issue in his own column.

Coates has since been invited to a private briefing with the federal Justice Minister to share his views on reconciliation and an opportunities agenda for Indigenous peoples.

Also, in early 2016 the book *From Treaty Peoples to Treaty Nation*, co-authored by Coates and University of Saskatchewan professor Greg Poelzer was a finalist for the prestigious Donner Prize, given annually to the best public policy book by a Canadian. And Coates also received nominations for the Saskatoon Book Award and won a University of Saskatchewan Non-Fiction Book Award for his powerful and influential, *#IdleNoMore and the Remaking of Canada*.

As well, Coates made a significant impact during a speaking tour of Australia in 2016, where he discovered a terrific appetite for ideas from Canada for dealing with the many similar issues experienced by Australia with engaging Aboriginal peoples with the natural resource economy. He gave a number of presentations in Canberra, including at the Parliamentary Library and the Australian National University, titled “Innovation,



Technology and Developing the North: Insights from the Arctic for Australia's Remote Regions and Indigenous Communities.”

Later in 2016, MLI report author Bram Noble participated on a panel for the Ontario Association of Impact Assessment, speaking to the future of EA and Aboriginal engagement in impact assessment. He also gave an invited talk at UBC, and has been invited to participate on a Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency panel at the International Association for Impact Assessment in 2017, addressing Aboriginal engagement and practical implications for impact assessment.

Finally, with regard to Indigenous issues, in December 2016 the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications produced a report titled *Pipelines for Oil: Protecting Our Economy, Respecting our Environment*, which quoted testimony Ken Coates presented to the committee and made the following recommendations which are in line with MLI's input:

- The committee recommends that Natural Resources Canada, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, industry and academia, develop and update annually a working document of best practices in building partnerships with Indigenous communities in the natural resources sector.
- Appoint permanently an Indigenous peoples' representative to the National Energy Board. The representative should be chosen in consultation with Indigenous communities.

The committee also recommended that Natural Resources Canada modernize the National Energy Board (NEB) regulatory process by: “removing governor in council's automatic final approval (less politicized process).” This is something that is recommended by MLI's Brian Lee Crowley. The Postmedia story on the Senate report quoted Crowley at length.

“ MLI is a prime example of the positive and constructive role that think tanks can play on the front lines of economic reconciliation. Their work connecting Aboriginal peoples and the natural resource economy has been a breath of fresh air in one of the most important discussions in this country. Their well-informed, optimistic perspectives on Indigenous engagement reflect a deeper understanding of Aboriginal participation in the resource sector. Their work has incredible value for all Canadians. ”

JP Gladue
PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL BUSINESS

Finally, near the end of 2016, on the heels of the federal government's decisions on three major pipeline projects: Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain, and Enbridge's Northern Gateway and Line 3, MLI released a timely, entertaining and informative series of videos featuring interviews with Coates to bring reasoned analysis to these heated issues in a way that is accessible for Canadians.

First Nations leaders have taken notice of the positive and constructive nature of MLI's work. At a 2015 event intended to answer the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Perry Bellegarde, called for a new approach to policy work on Aboriginal issues, and pointed to the MLI work done by Ken Coates as the kind of practical, influential research that Canada needs more of.

Finally, a dinner MLI held bringing business leaders, Aboriginal leaders and government together in Saskatoon so impressed the Saskatchewan Treaty Commissioner that he recruited Ken Coates to travel

across Saskatchewan to host similar meetings, and work directly with those affected by controversy over resource development. These meetings have served as a model for another series of MLI meetings in BC under the auspices of the BC Chamber of Commerce, which began in 2015. These meetings are a terrific example of how this project has moved to a new phase of working directly with affected parties to find practical solutions.

The Economy

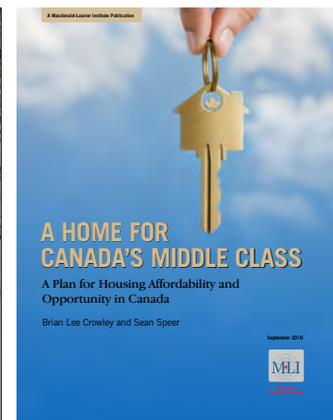
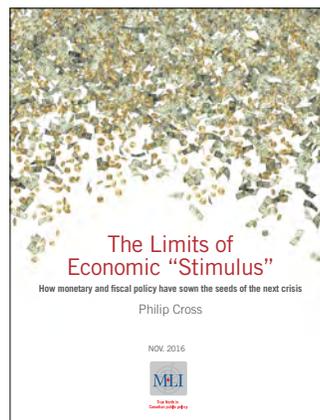
The state of the economy is of course of vital interest to Canadians, and few analysts provide the kind of new thinking on economic issues that MLI does.

In 2016, MLI published the following major papers about the economy and fiscal policy, in addition to numerous shorter articles and commentaries:

- “Winners And Losers In The Global Race For Ultra-Fast Broadband: A cautionary tale from Europe,” by Andrea Renda, Aug. 24, 2016
- “A Home For Canada’s Middle Class: A plan for housing affordability and opportunity in Canada,” by Brian Lee Crowley and Sean Speer, Sept. 29, 2016
- “A New Policy For The Digital Age: A mandate review for the CRTC,” by Sean Speer and Len Katz, Oct. 20, 2016
- “The Limits of Economic ‘Stimulus’: How monetary and fiscal policy have sown the seeds of the next crisis,” by Philip Cross, Nov. 30, 2016

As ever, MLI’s experts have been sought after for their thought leadership on economic issues. To take a few examples, in March 2016, MLI Senior Fellow Sean Speer and Managing Director Brian Lee Crowley appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce during hearings on the government’s efforts to modernize the decades-old deal that was supposed to tear down barriers between the provinces, the Agreement on Internal Trade. Speer and Crowley applauded the government’s plan to make internal trade a top priority. But they also warned the committee about the folly of repeating past mistakes and urged the federal government to use its power to liberate trade within Canada. MLI has a large body of work on the importance of Canada’s founders’ vision that Canadians have the right to work and trade freely across the country.

The committee’s report in June endorsed MLI’s recommendation that the federal government must play a greater role in bringing an end to the barriers to goods, services, people and capital that plague interprovincial trade and commerce.



And in a major victory for liberating internal trade, and a strong validation of MLI’s work on the issue, in 2016 a provincial court judge dismissed the case against a New Brunswick man who was charged with bringing beer and liquor across the border with Quebec. The judge was clear in stating that “the Fathers of Confederation wanted to implement free trade as between the provinces of the newly formed Canada,” a position that MLI has long argued. In March 2017 it was announced that the case will be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. MLI had direct involvement in the *Comeau* case as our report author Ian Blue was a member of the legal team for the defence.

Our experts have made important other contributions to Parliamentary hearings, including pre-budget consultations. In October, Munk Senior Fellow Philip Cross testified before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons

with Disabilities, to discuss poverty reduction strategies. Also in late 2016, Cross appeared before the Commons Standing Committee on Finance to testify on Bill C-26, *An Act to Amend the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act and the Income Tax Act*.

Health Care

In 2016 MLI continued its effort to spark new thinking on Canada's ailing health care system. MLI published the following papers on health care issues in addition to numerous commentaries and op-eds:

- "Injecting Some Healthy Competition Into Canadian Health Care," by Mark Ronayne and Richard Audas, Nov. 22, 2016
- "Toward a more fair medicare: Why Canadian health care isn't equitable or sustainable and how it can be," by Sean Speer and Ian Lee, July 19, 2016

In addition to its publications, in March 2016, MLI released the third in its four-video series making the case for major health care reform in Canada. This video explores internationally tried and tested ideas for improving Canada's expensive and underperforming health-care system. The release of the video led to a number of media interview requests for MLI Managing Director Brian Lee Crowley, including on CBC TV's *The Exchange* and Danielle Smith's radio show, and it received a strong endorsement from Canadians for Sustainable Medicare which called it "an extraordinary video."

On May 7 before scores of attendees at an event hosted by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Brian Lee Crowley delivered a talk on medicare's fiscal squeeze and the path to health care reform.

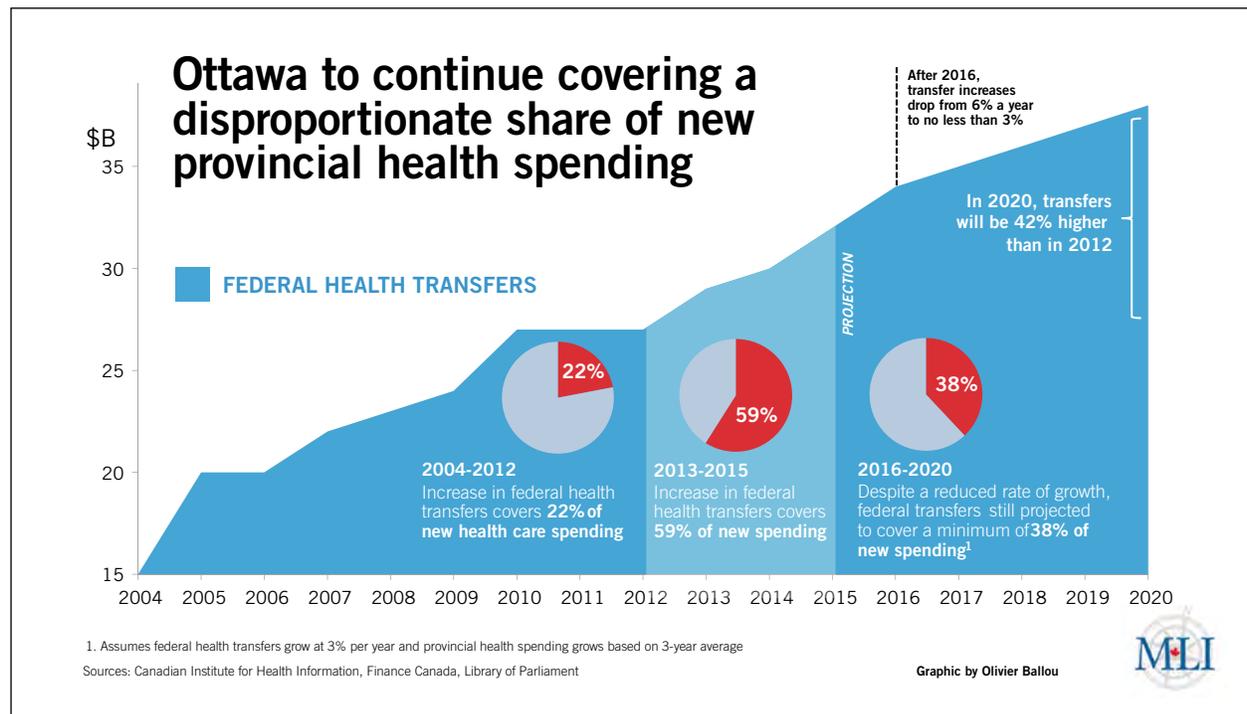
Sean's Speer's work on health care has attracted the attention of numerous stakeholders in the health policy debate. In September he was asked to present on "Re-evaluating the *Canada Health Act*" at an annual conference organized by the University of Toronto Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, and the *Health Law in Canada Journal*. In addition, Speer was invited to prepare an article to be included in the February 2017 *Health Law in Canada Journal* special edition that will focus on the *Canada Health Act*.

Also in September, Speer was the headline guest at an event organized by Peace, Order and Good Government Canada about the need for health system reform. Finally, Speer participated in high-level stakeholder meetings convened by the McMaster University Health Forum to discuss health system sustainability in Ontario.

Finally, one area where we feel we have contributed substantially to the health care debate is on the issue of health transfers to the provinces. When the federal government was meeting the provinces in the fall on this issue, MLI released a series of articles, a video



and infographics that exposed provincial complaints about “reduced” health funding. Indeed, we showed that even as the pace of growth of health transfers slowed, the federal government would be paying an increasing share of each new health dollar as provinces have been forced to constrain health spending. As we made clear, the provinces have demonstrated that they can control the growth of health spending if they are unable to rely on massive increases in health transfers. As recommended by MLI, the federal government announced it would hold the line on health transfers and instead target funding for the provinces for specific priorities.



Mandate for Change Series

MLI demonstrated just how quickly and effectively it can adapt to the changing Canadian policy landscape with its “From a Mandate for Change to a Plan to Govern” series.

Published over 14 weeks from the new government’s Throne Speech to the 2016 budget, the series tackled a different government priority each week with a constructive and engaged tone. Munk Senior Fellow Sean Speer partnered with expert co-authors including Brian Flemming, Ken Coates, Christian Leuprecht, Laura Dawson and others to present the best policy solutions to the government’s goals. The March 22 federal budget included a number of measures specifically recommended in the MLI series, such as:

- A review of federal tax expenditures, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Brian Lee Crowley, titled “Creating economic opportunity for the Middle Class.”
- Increased funding for refugee camps in response to the Syrian crisis, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Christian Leuprecht, titled “Getting refugee policy right.”
- A targeted increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement for retirees, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Philip Cross, titled “Helping Canadians achieve a secure retirement.”
- Refraining from rushing on the development of an infrastructure plan and supporting local/community asset management plans, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Brian Flemming, titled “Avoiding shortcuts on the road to infrastructure spending.” This paper also led to a request for Speer to brief the staff of the Transport Minister.

- Focusing on practical measures such as funding Aboriginal housing and basic social services including early childhood learning, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Ken Coates, titled “Building a new Aboriginal opportunities agenda.”
- Restoring Parliament’s role in approving annual borrowing, as recommended in the paper, co-authored with Ian Lee, titled “Avoiding the federal deficit quicksand.”

Over the course of the series, Sean Speer was a regular in major media with op-eds in the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, Sun Media and Postmedia papers, and appearances on broadcasters including CBC Radio, CBC TV’s *The Exchange* and *Power and Politics*, and CTV’s *Power Play*, in addition to BNN.

As well, Speer testified at the invitation of the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications on the future of energy infrastructure in Canada. “Something extraordinary is happening,” Speer told the committee. “Indigenous peoples and resource companies have, through a bottom-up process of experimentation and cooperation, begun to develop economic partnerships.” During the hearing, Senator Doug Black said of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, “I am very appreciative that you continue to offer thoughtful contributions on issues of national importance, particularly on the energy file, so I wanted to start by thanking you very much.”

Innovation and Intellectual Property (IP)

With the addition of Munk Senior Fellow Richard Owens in 2016 as the leader of MLI’s innovation and intellectual property work, MLI has increasingly made its name on IP issues, which will be of particular importance as the federal government develops its promised “intellectual property strategy.” In a

powerful paper in 2016 titled “How to Really Support Canadian Culture: Heritage and the copyright brief,” Owens made the case for strong legal protections for creators over increased government handouts to support Canadian culture.



In September, Owens was invited to speak at a conference hosted by the Canadian American Business Council titled “The Innovation Machine.”

The year 2016 also saw the launch of MLI’s Intellectual Property Report newsletter, which brings its growing audience the best of MLI’s thought leadership on intellectual property along with the opinions of Canada’s top experts in IP and innovation. As well, the June issue of *Inside Policy*, titled “Unleashing the Power of Canadian Ideas” raised the profile of intellectual property issues in the capital.

Foreign Policy and Security

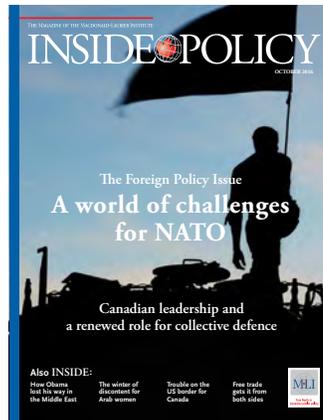
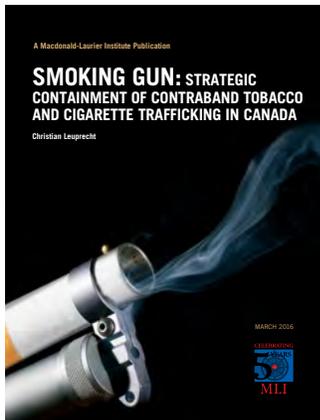
With the addition of Munk Senior Fellow Shuvaloy Majumdar in 2016, MLI was quickly thrust into the foreign policy debate like never before, bringing the kind of sharp analysis and new viewpoints that stood in contrast to the staid old guard of foreign affairs commentary. We have used innovative methods to take the lead on issues, including Majumdar’s BBC Facebook Live interview on Canada-US relations that received more than 300,000 views, and a live Twitter commentary by Majumdar challenging Iranian Foreign Minister Jawad Zarif who was delivering a speech in New Delhi, which created a social media stir.

Majumdar also participated as a panellist on the topic of “NATO in Afghanistan” at the 2016 NATO Leaders’ Summit in Warsaw.

Our foreign policy work has also received the kind of negative attention that we wear as a badge of honour: Following the publication of a commentary paper by Majumdar and MLI Senior Fellow Marcus Kolga on the challenges to NATO posed by Russia’s regime following the Warsaw Summit, MLI’s social media were attacked by Kremlin-directed Internet trolls, and we have also been targeted by denial of service attacks on our website.

Much more positively, Kolga’s work in 2016 on Canada’s Magnitsky legislation, named for a murdered Russian dissident, is paving the way for Canada to take action on the world’s human rights abusers. Clearly our work in this field is being noticed. Kolga’s initiative now has the full support of the federal government as announced by Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland in May 2017.

And on border security issues, MLI published an authoritative study on the effects of contraband smuggling, and policy ideas that have been adopted by government including an Ontario task force that has been set up to fight smuggling. The study has been widely reported on and cited in the media.



Events

MLI continues its effort to organize timely events fostering lively dialogue among the top experts on crucial national issues. In 2016 our events provided a much needed platform for thoughtful and meaningful discussion.

“ I’m pleased to commend the Macdonald-Laurier Institute for its contribution to public discourse, especially the organized debates in Toronto and Ottawa that have brought together interesting debaters (he said, having been one of them!) on important subjects and found large audiences. ”

Jeffrey Simpson
FORMER GLOBE AND MAIL NATIONAL AFFAIRS COLUMNIST

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Dinner

On February 24 MLI held the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Dinner to recognize and celebrate the life and legacy of a great Canadian prime minister and to mark his 175th birthday. The dinner offered a talk on Laurier's greatest achievements by Brian Lee Crowley, and a prestigious panel of speakers to discuss Laurier's legacy. The evening attracted a large crowd of distinguished guests, including members of Parliament, members of the media and business leaders from across Canada. The event earned coverage from multiple media outlets including iPolitics, CPAC, and the *Ottawa Citizen*.

High-Level Panel: "Meeting the New Security Threats in Europe"

On November 17, MLI assembled a high-level panel to discuss challenges facing Canadian allies in Eastern Europe and Baltic region. The event featured Ukrainian Vice-Prime Minister Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze who shared the experience her country has had with Russian aggression. The panel drew considerable attention from the diplomatic community, academia, government and NGOs. A Postmedia reporter attended and wrote a major profile piece on Klympush-Tsintsadze.

Great Canadian Debates

In 2016 MLI continued the success of its Great Canadian Debate series. The events attracted enthusiastic crowds and significantly contributed to a thoughtful policy debate in Canada. This year we held four debates about some of the most contentious issues facing Canadians today and featuring some of Canada's most respected public commentators.

Jonathan Kay and Chris Alexander started off the series in Toronto in April. Kay, then editor of the *Walrus* magazine, argued in favour of the resolution: "The terrorist threat to Canada has been grossly exaggerated." Alexander, the former Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, argued against.

The second debate was held at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa in May. The resolution was "Mass resettlement to Canada is the best thing for the country, and the best thing for Syrian refugees," with Elizabeth May, the Leader of the federal Green Party arguing in favour, and David Frum, a columnist and former US presidential speech-writer arguing against.

Later in May, the Hon. Irwin Cotler and Lord Conrad Black debated at the Canadian War Museum before a sellout crowd. Cotler, a former federal Justice Minister argued against the



Charlotte Gray at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Dinner



Bob Rae at the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Dinner



Ukrainian VPM Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze

resolution “Canada’s Supreme Court has usurped the proper role of Parliament.” Black, a financier, author, and columnist argued for.

On the last debate of the year held in October again at the Canadian War Museum, Margaret Wente and Susan Eng squared off over the motion “Canada must stop coddling its spoiled seniors.” Wente, the *Globe and Mail* columnist argued in favour of the motion, and Eng a lawyer and seniors’ rights advocate, argued against.



Jonathan Kay and Peter Milliken at the Great Canadian Debates



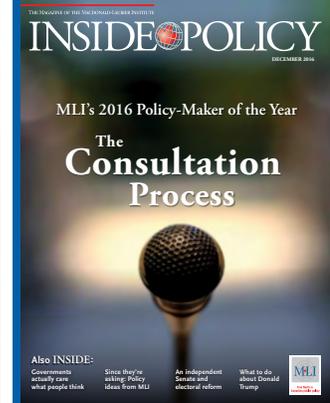
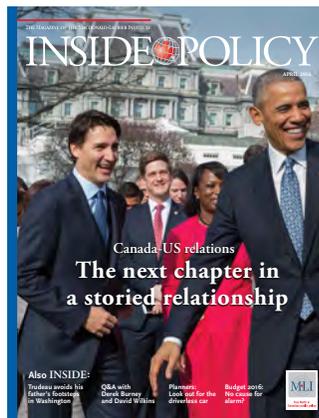
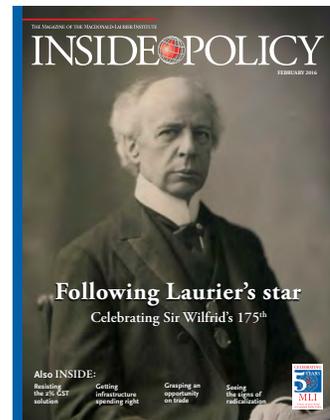
David Frum at the Great Canadian Debates



Susan Eng, Peter Milliken and Margaret Wente at the Great Canadian Debates

Inside Policy

MLI’s signature magazine, *Inside Policy*, is the best way to reach decision makers and opinion leaders. The magazine is distributed to a wide audience of parliamentarians, senior government officials, business leaders, journalists, and MLI supporters. In 2016 MLI also substantially increased the publication of *Inside Policy* articles online, giving MLI its own daily platform on policy issues rather than depending on the mainstream media. The magazine continues to attract quality contributors including David Wilkins and Derek Burney, Christopher Sands, James Moore, Patrice Dutil, Elizabeth May, Raheel Raza, Margaret Wente, Scott Reid and Marni Soupcoff. In our final edition of 2016 we devoted our Policy-Maker of the Year feature to “the consultation process,” with an irreverent take on the government’s apparent fondness for review over decisive policy making. Soupcoff and Reid provided competing views on the issue.



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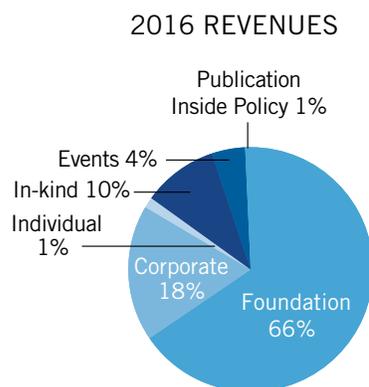
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Macdonald-Laurier Institute Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year Ended December 31, 2016	2016	2015
Revenue		
Donations		
Foundation	\$ 1,075,268	\$ 742,565
Corporate	295,969	349,486
Individual	22,985	9,282
In-kind and travel recoveries	163,250	128,299
Event Registration and sponsorship	72,310	13,706
Publication-Inside Policy	11,901	9,912
Publication sales	-	266
Interest	132	964
	1,641,815	1,377,834
Expenditures		
Accounting and legal	\$ 27,027	\$ 22,283
Advertising and promotions	38,051	19,842
Bad debt expense	-	16,000
Bank charges	3,664	2,890
Contract fees	604,453	508,436
Editing and design	74,203	58,253
Event speaker fees, catering, supplies and promotion	72,455	82,303
Insurance	7,166	4,782
Office supplies	21,047	18,785
Printing	24,513	27,105
Rent	57,798	52,583
Research, writing, translation and reader fees	104,485	85,145
Salaries and benefits	515,169	435,639
Travel and accommodations	45,734	35,073
Video services	31,969	23,766
Web-site	13,989	7,229
	1,641,723	1,400,114
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	\$ 92.00	\$ (22,280)

* Full audited statements available on request.



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CONTACT US: Macdonald-Laurier Institute
8 York Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 5S6

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